



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

SPRING 2007 GUIDE



Crystal Cave Tours & Other Activities • page 3

Road & Safety Tips / Finding Gasoline • page 5

Trails & Highlights in Sequoia Park • page 6

Trails & Highlights in Kings Canyon & USFS • page 7

page 8 • Shuttles, Facilities & Naturalist Programs in Sequoia

page 9 • Facilities & Programs in Kings Canyon & US Forest Service

page 10 • Camping & Lodging / Bears & Your Food

page 12 • Park Road Map



Sequoia road delays

With a little planning, you can avoid much of a wait at the road repair area on the Generals Highway. A 1-1/2 mile section of old road is being reconstructed in Sequoia Park between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and the Giant Forest.

Planned work schedule: Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Traffic can pass once per hour, at the top of every hour. Uphill traffic goes through first, then downhill traffic. Aim to get to the work zone at about 15 minutes before the hour (see drive-time chart below). If night work is needed, signs and notices will be posted.

Last restrooms before the construction are at Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum. Be sure to use them (none are available near the construction zone)!

Flaggers, pilot cars or automatic lights (after work hours) will direct you. No stopping in the construction zone; Amphitheater Point and other overlooks in that stretch are closed. Go slow, and give the workers plenty of room.

While waiting, put the car in park, turn it off, and keep your foot off the brakes or they won't cool off. Overheated brakes fail, and cause most of the accidents on this steep road.

During Memorial Day weekend, the only delay will be an automated traffic light (9-15 minutes wait) from noon on Friday, 5/25 through 6 a.m. on Tuesday, 5/29. The same is true of July 4th week: Only brief delays from noon on 7/3 to 6 a.m. on 7/5. Be sure to wait for the green light, or you'll get trapped by oncoming traffic! **Thank you for your patience.**

DRIVE TIME TO CONSTRUCTION ZONE FROM:

Sequoia Entrance/Hwy 198 – 35 minutes
Foothills Visitor Center – 30 minutes
Potwisha Campground – 21 minutes
Hospital Rock Picnic Area – 15 minutes
Giant Forest Museum – 15 minutes
Grant Grove Village – 1-1/4 hours

A shuttle to the sequoias

Be driven.



A new shuttle bus system serves the Giant Forest from May 24 to September 3!

One shuttle route runs from Visalia to the Giant Forest Museum. Another, the Giant Forest Route, runs from the museum to the General Sherman Tree, Lodgepole Village, and Wuksachi Lodge. A third route goes from the Giant Forest Museum to Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow (see page 8 for details). You can ride one, two, or all three between about 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.!

The shuttle reduces traffic, air pollution, and parking hassles. You can park once, take the shuttle to another spot, then stroll a trail through the sequoias back to your car. Or ride it just to get an overview of the area before deciding where you want to stop and visit.

This shuttle is the story of perseverance and partnerships. It represents one of the last steps in a decades-long effort to improve preservation and visitation in the Giant Forest sequoia grove (see exhibits in the Giant Forest Museum for more of that story).

It took a great partner, the City of Visalia, to make this pilot project a reality. They charge a reasonable fee for the ride from Visalia to the Giant Forest. The other routes are free, funded in part by park entrance fees.

We have three years to prove that enough visitors will ride the shuttles to continue the service. Try it; we hope you'll like it (the environment will thank you). Please pass on suggestions to any park ranger. Enjoy the ride!